

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 3, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In reply to the requirement in section 1 of the Office Action, the present Amendment revises the title to make it more descriptive. The new title is "Device For Completing And Retrieving Numerical Expressions."

In reply to the objection in section 2 of the Office Action, the present Amendment forwards a shortened abstract, with claim-type language deleted.

In reply to the claim objections in section 4 of the Office Action and the rejections for indefiniteness in sections 8-11, the present Amendment revises the claims extensively to improve their form under US claim-drafting practice. In view of these revisions, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections have been overcome. One of the objections, though, warrants further comment.

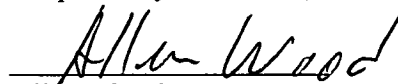
At the middle of page 3, the Office Action comments that "for" in various lines in claims 1-6 constitutes intended use, never actually taking place and therefore not given patentable weight. Applicants respectfully disagree. The word "for" in the preamble of a claim may indicate an intended use that is not entitled to patentable weight, but this does not apply where recitations in the body of the claim are linked to the preamble in such a manner as to breathe life and meaning into the preamble (as appears to be acknowledged in section 10 of the Office Action). In the body of a claim, the word "for" frequently appears in means-plus-function recitations, which are sanctioned by the sixth paragraph of 35 USC 112. In short, it is not appropriate to automatically regard claim language associated with

the word "for" as intended use language that can be ignored when considering patentability over the prior art.

Turning now to the rejection for non-statutory subject matter, in section 6 of the Office Action, the present Amendment cancels claim 2 and transfers its subject matter to claim 1. As a result, claim 1 now provides generally that a record containing an incomplete numerical expression is completed by adding a basic unit of measurement to a prefix in the record, and the record with the now-completed numerical expression is stored (along with the original record and a retrieval keyword) in a document database. This is a tangible result with real-world utility. The current formulation of claim 1 is not directed to an abstract idea or to mere manipulation of data within a computer, but instead represents a practical application of an idea. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 USC 101 should be withdrawn.

For the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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ABSTRACT

In order to realize a numerical expression retrieving device which permits a user to retrieve a numerical expression without caring about ~~a case where~~ whether the numerical expression is shortened to a prefix only, the numerical expression retrieving device of the present invention ~~comprises~~ includes an input ~~means~~ section for inputting any document to-be-retrieved or any numerical expression to-be-retrieved; a syntactic parsing ~~means~~ section for parsing the syntactic structure of the inputted document or numerical expression; an attribute dictionary which stores attribute information and unit system information ~~therein, the attribute information including attribute names indicative of attributes, attribute contents indicative of the meanings of the attributes, and basic units for supplementing omitted representations, the unit system information including prefixes for deciding the incomplete or shortened numerical expressions, and multiples indicative of the meanings of the prefixes;~~ therein; a co-occurrence word dictionary which stores therein information including attribute names indicative of attributes, and co-occurrence words for deciding the attribute names; and an omission completion ~~means~~ section for ~~supplementing the adding a basic unit of measurement to the a prefix of the in an~~ inputted document, or numerical expression by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and the attribute dictionary or by further referring to the co-occurrence word dictionary, thereby to complete the completing an incomplete or shortened numerical expression.